

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress:

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Continuation of C-17 Logistics Support Services and Equipment

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested a possible sale of continued logistics support for eight (8) C-17 aircraft which will include: contract labor for sustainment engineering, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance, support equipment repair, supply chain management, spares replenishment, maintenance, back shop support, centralized maintenance support/associated services, and additional spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode 5+ installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, Communications Modernization (CNS/ATM) Phase II, Replacement Heads-Up Display and three special operations loading ramps. The estimated total cost is \$400 million.

The United Kingdom is a close ally and an important partner on critical foreign policy and defense issues. The proposed sale will enhance U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by enhancing the United Kingdom's capabilities to provide national defense and contribute to NATO and coalition operations.

The proposed sale of defense articles and services are required to maintain the operational readiness of the Royal Air Force. The United Kingdom's current contract supporting its C-17 aircraft will expire in September 2017. The United Kingdom will have no difficulty absorbing this support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Corporation of Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. Government is not aware of any known off-sets associated with this sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this sale will require the assignment of approximately three additional U.S. Government and approximately 55 contractor representatives to the United Kingdom.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-82

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex A Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to the United Kingdom in the performance of services to sustain eight (8) United Kingdom C-17 aircraft. While much of the below equipment supporting the C-17 is not new to the country, there will be replenishment spares of the below sensitive technologies purchased to support the fleet.

2. The Force 524D is a 24-channel SAASM based Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, with precise positioning service (PPS) capability built upon Trimble's next generation OPS technology. The Force 524D retains backward compatibility with the proven Force 5GS, while adding new functionality to interface with digital an-

tenna electronics, to significantly improve anti-jam (AJ) performance. The host platform can select the radio frequency (RF) or digital antenna electronics (DAE) interface. In the digital mode, the Force 524D is capable of controlling up to 16 independent beams. The hardware and software associated with the 524D receiver card is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. The C-17 aircraft will be equipped with the GAS-1, which is comprised of the Controlled Reception Pattern Antennas (CRPA), with the associated wiring harness and the Antenna Electronics (AE)-1, to provide AJ capability. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

4. The KIV-77 is the crypto applique for Mode V Identification Friend or Foe (IFF). The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED and COMSEC controlled.

5. Software, hardware, and other data/information, which is classified or sensitive, is reviewed prior to release to protect system vulnerabilities, design data, and performance parameters. Some end-item hardware, software, and other data identified above are classified at the CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET level. Potential compromise of these systems is controlled through management of the basic software programs, of highly sensitive systems and software-controlled weapon systems, on a case-by-case basis.

6. The United Kingdom is both willing and able to protect United States classified military information. The United Kingdom's physical and document security standards are equivalent to U.S. standards. The United Kingdom has demonstrated its willingness and capability to protect sensitive military technology and information released to its military in the past. The United Kingdom is firmly committed to its relationship with the United States and to its promise to protect classified information and prevent its transfer to a third party.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software source code in this proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of systems with similar or advanced capabilities. The benefits to be derived from this sale in the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology, were revealed to unauthorized persons.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Kingdom.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CHARLES KEATING IV

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an American hero, Navy Seal Charles Keating IV, who died in service to his country.

On January 13, 2017, the Navy awarded its highest honor, the Navy Cross, to CPO Charles Keating IV for heroism demonstrated in combat against the Islamic State in northern Iraq. Our Nation lost a great patriot and American hero in Charles, who was only 31 when he succumbed to injuries sustained during an attack on his team. Charles, a Navy SEAL special warfare operator chief petty officer, was part of a quick reaction force that was called upon to aid U.S. military forces and Kurdish Peshmerga allies when they came under heavy fire by a large force of Is-

lamic State fighters north of Mosul. Tragically, we lost Charles on May 3, 2016.

Charles enlisted in the Navy in 2007, leaving Indiana University where he was a long-distance runner. He went on to graduate from the basic underwater demolition/SEAL training in 2008, joining an elite group. He served one tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Previously awarded the Silver Star for his actions in the line of duty, Chief Keating was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously for his demonstration of extraordinary heroism and valor when he was the decisive repellant of an overwhelming enemy force, assuring the lives of his team and coalition counterparts. According to his award citation:

Keating's courageous leadership, tactical acumen, and physical courage were the key factors in defeating an assault on friendly lines by more than 100 enemy fighters. He continually exposed himself to enemy automatic weapon, mortar, and rocket propelled grenade fire as he diligently maneuvered between fighting positions to stop enemy advances. The enemy then attempted to flank his position with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. At great personal risk, Chief Keating led a team into the open to intercept and neutralize the rapidly closing VBIED threat with precise sniper and rocket fire. His personal bravery throughout the engagement inspired his comrades to vigorously defend their position and repel the enemy's assault.

Nowadays, the words "hero" and "heroism" are used so often that they tend to lose some of their meaning. For this reason, it is so very important that we identify heroism and honor heroes when they truly present themselves. There can be no greater hero among us than those like Chief Keating, who gave their lives for their fellow man in support of ideals greater than their own self-interest. With this in mind, I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Charles Keating IV and his legacy, who will stand forever in our memory as an illustrious example of each and every man and woman in our Armed Forces and those in harm's way supporting them, who give the ultimate selfless sacrifice in service to our great country.

BUILDING A BETTER MONTANA

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the speech that I gave to the Montana House of Representatives on January 16, 2017, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Speaker Knudsen, Majority Leader Ehli, Minority Leader Eck, honored guests, members of the House: It is truly an honor to be here.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that today is Martin Luther King Jr. Day—

a day that celebrates a man who saw injustice in this country and worked to change it. It is a great reminder of the impact a citizen can have on our government if we work together.

This tradition of inviting the members of our Congressional Delegation to address this body reminds us: we are Montanans first. Twelve years ago, when I was Senate President, we made time for these addresses because they are a way to align Montana's priorities at a state and federal level. Montanans look to our elected officials for leadership and a spirit of cooperation. I will admit it is disappointing that the current Montana Senate President chose to abandon the smart tradition of joint addresses to the Legislature, especially early in the session when there is a little more time to do so. Speaker Knudsen, thank you for doing your part to honor this tradition.

But first, I would like to take a moment and thank the men and women who have made our country the leader of the free world for so many generations: our veterans. Would all of the fine folks who served our country please stand to be recognized. Thank you for your service to our country. As the incoming Ranking Member of the VA Committee, I promise we do not take our responsibility to you lightly. Whether it is getting the Southwest Vets Home in Butte built or holding the VA accountable for long wait times, we will work together to do right by our veterans.

As a citizen legislature, we have veterans, farmers, teachers, and small business men and women. And for 90 days or so, you come to Helena to represent your district, vote your conscience, and make Montana proud. Our state's founders knew that whether you are a rancher from Bloomfield or a teacher from Helena, for these 90 days, your priority would be to your constituents and our great state. Despite our differences, we have a common goal, to ensure Montana continues to be the Last Best Place for generations to come.

We know Montana is already a great place. With Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, world-class hunting and fishing, and the best agriculture products in the world, folks from all over come to our state to experience a little slice of the paradise we get to call home. From Sidney to St. Regis and everywhere in between, Montana is full of the hardest working people in the nation.

I hope to work with you to create good paying jobs across Montana. Today I will present a thoughtful, common sense, Montana-focused plan to strengthen our economy and create high paying jobs. I am calling it Employ Montana. Employ Montana will rebuild our infrastructure, create a marketplace for our products, pave the way for innovation, invest in our workforce, and responsibly develop our resources. This will let folks know Montana is open for business.

But in order to compete in a global marketplace Montana needs more than scenery and a dedicated workforce. My first objective, as part of Employ Montana, is to invest in our infrastructure. Together, we can ensure that folks have an infrastructure that allows them to get to work during the week and to play on the weekend and that businesses big and small can get their products to market.

That's why I worked to pass a long-term highway bill that ensures Montanans gets more bang for their buck. Thanks to the highway bill, for every dollar that hard-working Montanans contribute to the federal Highway Trust Fund, our state gets about two-and-a-half bucks back. This year, that's about \$424 million for our roads, bridges, and highways.

But we only get that funding if the state agrees to put up a certain amount as well.

The Governor provided a temporary fix that ensures we get that funding this year. But this is still a systemic issue that we must address in the future. Montanans need you to ensure the tens of millions of dollars that Montana families pay into the Highway Trust Fund are not sent to New York, California, or Alabama instead. Our construction workers, contractors, and middle class families cannot afford to see money left on the table because their politicians can't agree. I've seen this body rise to the challenge time and time again and I know you will not disappoint.

Montana's infrastructure needs go beyond our bridges, streets, and water systems. That's why Employ Montana will also prepare our state for the 21st Century economy by ensuring responsible investments in rural broadband. In 2015, the second phase of the Connect America Fund delivered nearly \$100 million to two broadband companies that serve Montana. I want to see that money resulting in fiber being laid down across this state as soon as possible. That's why I plan to hold CenturyLink and Frontier's feet to the fire and find out what progress they are making. We've invested in them, and it is time to find out what kind of return we are receiving.

Strong connectivity across Montana will attract businesses to our state and allow our Montana made companies to market their product worldwide—companies like Kracklin Kamut, a healthy wheat-based snack food. I am pleased to have Thomas joined by his wife Heather and daughter Grace who just moved to Big Sandy to work for Kracklin Kamut. An innovative start-up like Kracklin Kamut brought Thomas and his family to Big Sandy to work, and with stronger broadband, Kracklin Kamut can be sold even in the biggest markets, which could bring more jobs and more families to the community.

In Montana, we know that, whether it's snack food or textiles, we make a superior product and we are proud to see "Made in America" slapped on the label. It is time that we make sure our taxpayer dollars are being used to support American workers, not lining the pockets of foreign corporations.

Through my Employ Montana plan, I will introduce the Berry Amendment Extension Act, which would require the Department of Homeland Security to purchase their supplies from American companies. I think of Bozeman's own Mystery Ranch, which could provide the folks on the border with their quality multi-purpose backpacks. This is a common sense solution that will create jobs here in Montana and keep our taxpayer dollars within our own borders. Whether Montanans produce backpacks, airplane parts, beef, or wheat, we are competing in a global marketplace.

President-elect Trump and I agree: we need to ensure America has fair trade, not free trade. And as part of my Employ Montana plan, I look forward to working with the President-elect to develop trade policies that ensure Montana producers get a fair shake while protecting American workers.

My friends from the forested counties can agree: it's time to negotiate a new softwood lumber agreement. I will work with the new Administration to create a fair, effective, and sustainable softwood lumber agreement. This will help our timber industry get the certainty they need to responsibly cut trees and help get our mills back to work.

Our timber industry is not the only one suffering from unfair trade practices. Farmers across Montana continue to feel the consequence of unfair wheat grading by the Canadian government. There is many a company that gets stopped at the border because of unfair trade practices. Montana farmers

produce the best product. To see it immediately downgraded to feed grade at the border is unacceptable. I'll do my part, and I want the Trump administration to do their part to ensure Montana farmers can be competitive in the global marketplace. This will create a strong market for Montana's farmers, putting more money into the hands of our farmers, more money that they can spend on Montana products.

I believe the best way to create jobs is to build an economy that empowers innovators. Often times, creative Montanans lack the access to capital in order to start their business. A large part of my Employ Montana plan is dedicated to ensuring Montana innovators have access to capital and the means to develop private partnerships. Programs like the Small Business Innovation Research Program provide grant money to companies to help them get off the ground.

I am pleased to have one of those innovators, Stan Abel, of SiteOne Therapeutics, in the gallery today joined by his wife Stacey. Stan saw the opioid crisis ravaging our country and worked with scientist to try and find a better, less addictive, way to manage pain. With the help of SBIR grants Stan was able to get his business started and went on to secure private investment from Montana's first successful Venture Capital firm Next Frontier. SiteOne will continue to grow and employ more and more people in Montana because of Stan's ability to see a problem and think of an innovative solution to solve that problem. A Montana business supported by Montana capital makes SiteOne a model for our state and we need to look to spread their success statewide. With increased SBIR grants, we will have more innovators like Stan leading the way.

Small business grants are only one piece of the puzzle. The next part of my Employ Montana plan is to cut red tape and increase access to capital for community banks. I am pleased to have Bob Nystuen and his wife Kim in the gallery today as well. Bob is President of Glacier Bank in Kalispell.

Bob has worked for community banks from Miles City to Kalispell, and he tells me that Montana is bursting with new ideas and ripe for a growing business climate. But our community banks are hampered by regulation that was meant to police the big guys, not the small credit unions and community banks that serve rural America and Main Street. All you have to do is spend five minutes with Bob to understand the differences between him and a Wall Street banker. As a member of the Banking Committee, I will work with Democrats and Republicans to provide responsible reforms to Dodd-Frank, to cut red tape for Bob and other Montana banks that are the cornerstone of our rural communities. With regulatory relief, our businesses will have better access to capital and be able to invest in their product, hire more workers, and expand their markets.

Luckily, for our businesses, Montana's workforce is second to none. My Employ Montana plan includes lean and mean investment in our workforce, an investment that is designed to meet the needs of the community.

In the gallery today, we have Mike Robbins, the Chairman of the Board of Montana Precision Products. Montana Precision Products builds components for GE Aviation. This company needs welders and has plans to hire 80 to 100 people by 2020.

And that's why they've partnered with the Anaconda Job Corps to build a skilled pipeline of employees. The Employ Montana plan proposes to boost our Job Corps programs in order to meet the needs of Montana businesses. So folks like Ray Ryan, the Site Manager for Anaconda Job Corps, can train

up the next generation of skilled workers, workers like Megan Widmer and Katie Barker. These two young ladies are active in the Anaconda Job Corps and they are here today with Ray. I want to thank them for their dedication to Montana.

With additional resources, we can ensure the Anaconda Job Corps and programs like it expand, create good paying jobs, and meet the needs of local industry with well-trained local workers.

But these types of community partnerships should not just be limited to Job Corps—we need to look at our education system and ensure it is creating a workforce that meets Montana's needs. Our two-year colleges are the key. That's why as part of Employ Montana, we need to give our community colleges the resources they need to develop the talent our employers are asking for. Because of our investment in education, a kid from Columbia Falls can go down to Flathead Community College, join its culinary program, and start a restaurant in Whitefish. And a young woman from Terry can travel southwest to Miles City Community College, enroll in its Commercial Driver's License course, and learn to drive an 18-wheeler hauling grain up to the Port of Raymond. We can work together to build on the success of our community colleges and expand our job training programs so that our workforce is ready to answer the call. Investing in our education is an investment in Montana's future.

Developing our human resources is critically important to a strong economy. But in Montana we have an incredible supply of natural resources as well. Included in Employ Montana is a plan to responsibly develop an all-of-the-above energy strategy. I plan to introduce the Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage Act, which will incentivize investment in the use of carbon capture technology. This legislation will provide tax credits to allow for Montana companies to burn coal cleaner and create good paying jobs.

But we can't ignore the fact that our climate is changing. This isn't a tree hugging issue; it's a jobs issue, and it's a food security issue. Montana's number one industry, agriculture, will lose profits and be more dependent on the federal government to pay the bills if we don't start taking proactive steps to protect our clean air and water. This is Montana's Constitutional right.

So I hope you will join me in supporting Employ Montana. From stronger infrastructure, to better broadband, increased start up grants and access to capital. From strengthening workforce programs and tapping our energy economy—Employ Montana will create high paying jobs and an economy we are proud of.

Now I would be remiss if I didn't take the last few minutes to talk about health care. It's a pressing issue and one that both Congress and the Montana Legislature will have to grapple with. Thanks to your good work last session Montana expanded Medicaid to over 60,000 hardworking people. For the first time in their lives these people were able to afford health coverage, you should be commended for that.

Repeal. Delay. Replace. Repeal and replace. Repeal and Delay. Obamacare. Trumpcare.

Here are the facts: The health care industry accounts for over 52,000 jobs in Montana. Health care in Montana is a \$4 billion industry. If Congress repeals the Affordable Care Act: Coverage would be ripped away from the 60,000 folks you gave hope to just two years ago. Montana's economy would lose \$3.1 Billion—with a capital "B"—between 2019 and 2023. It would add \$350 Billion to the deficit. We would lose 8,200 jobs in 2019 alone. And

rural areas would feel it the most, hospitals in towns like Culbertson, Hamilton, and my home town of Big Sandy would potentially have to board up their doors. Working together to fix the Affordable Care Act is just good business.

I've been around the state and the message is clear: People don't want Congress taking away their health care. Right now we have an incredible opportunity to find bipartisan solutions that can make health care more affordable for middle class families. But instead of having that important conversation, Congress is on the cusp of repealing all the progress we've made.

I want to be clear. I know premiums are rising. We cannot settle for any situation where middle class families cannot afford health insurance. I know that. But let's work together to keep the accountability up, and the costs down. Repealing the ACA without a plan for what comes next will not lower costs. Our families' health care is too important to throw it into chaos. We need to look before we leap. And we can't throw the baby out with the bath water. We need to be working to provide affordability to families and certainty to the rural communities that rely on our hospitals. I know we can find common ground to deliver that to Montana.

In Montana, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We can all agree that Montana raises the best agriculture products in the world. We can all agree that on a summer afternoon we'd rather be on the river than cooped up in an office. And we can all agree that Montana is home to the hardest working men and women in the world. We owe it to these hardworking men and women to come together to build a stronger Montana.

Together, we can build stronger roads and bridges. We can build a 21st Century infrastructure. We can build the quality products to supply folks at home and abroad. We can build a business friendly environment that encourages innovation and investment. We can build a more efficient workforce to meet the needs of our changing economy. We can build an energy sector that doesn't mortgage our future for today's profits. We can build a health care system that works for everyone, not just big insurance or drug companies. And we can build a stronger, better Montana for our next generation.

Good luck in the coming weeks.

God bless you, God bless Montana, and God bless this great country.

REMEMBERING TIM MITCHELL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my deep sorrow on the passing of Tim Mitchell. Through his absolute dedication to this institution and the special kind of person he was, Tim made the Senate a better place.

Tim served as the assistant secretary for the minority. As Senator Reid shared during his September remarks in celebration of Tim's 25 years of exemplary service, Tim began his career in the Senate working for Senator Don Riegle, Jr., of Michigan.

He later worked for Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota and the Democratic Policy & Communications Committee before joining the Democratic floor staff in 2001. Tim also took night classes at Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law—an impressive feat.

The Senate often calls for long days and longer nights. Debates on the floor

may get heated, rollcall votes may drag on for hours, but Tim always kept a calm temperament and kind demeanor. He was soft spoken, but firm—not an easy feat while juggling the Members of this body's unique needs and passions.

He was simply the best at what he did, and he made a real difference in how the Senate worked. The value of his service is incalculable.

To Tim's family—his wife, Alicia, and his 11-year-old son, Ben—I am so sorry for your loss. I am forever grateful that you shared Tim with us for so many years.

I echo Senator Reid's previous remarks: Tim's time here changed the Senate and this country for the better.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont high school students as part of the seventh annual State of the Union essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

FINN ABBEY, MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION HIGH
SCHOOL FRESHMAN (FINALIST)

Our country has faced many issues in the past, but today we face one of our greatest challenges. Division. We have forgotten to care for each other; forgotten that we are only strong with each other. We are growing too uncompassionate, too distrustful of each other. We can and must remember that we are not enriched by the success of one person, but rather the success of many. We prosper not with the defeat of others, but with their success. And keeping with the philosophy that we must succeed together, we must work together on smaller challenges.

Our country needs a system that not only doesn't punish the poor for their very existence, but offers every person the chance to better themselves. The hope that your children will have a better life than you has long been a staple of the American dream. To accomplish this, we need to create a liveable wage of \$15, and create a progressive tax system that leaves the poor with more and takes fairly from those who can afford it. We cannot be satisfied in the splendor of ourselves and people like us when our fellow Americans are living in the streets.

We must also institute universal health care. This will involve higher taxes, of course, but, combined with strict laws about pharmaceutical pricing and a fair tax system, will ensure that our country is healthy and our middle class stays strong. No one should ever have to choose between food and medicine. We need change.

We also must guarantee everyone the right to vote, and that their votes count. Time and time again voter ID laws have suppressed the African-American vote. We cannot say we are equal when we pass laws with the purpose of lowering voter turnout.

We also have to remove another recent mistake in election law: Citizens United. We cannot accept catering to special interests as a side effect of democracy; we must recognize it as a barrier to a fairer system. We must put the redrawing of congressional districts in the hands of independent commissions to prevent gerrymandering. Anything